CONTINUUM

MUSIC BY JOHN MAYER

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JOHN MAYER CONTINUUM

"With any trilogy," says John Mayer, "the third in the series blows it open."

On Continuum the singer/songwriter/
guitar slinger meets that challenge headon. Mayer's third studio album follows the
multi-platinum Room for Squares (2001)
and Heavier Things (2003) and marks his
first turn as producer. It is his most soulful,
cohesive collection yet and he says it's no
accident that this project is where all of his
efforts, his potential, and his disparate influences
fully come together.

"The night I was recognized for 'Daughters' at the Grammys was the night this record started," he says. "I knew I had bought the time to learn everything I needed before I started this one. *Continuum* is not a shot in the dark, it's not a guesstimation. This is the first endeavor in my entire life, music or otherwise, that I did not cop out on for a second."

The last few years have seen Mayer maintaining a frantic pace. In addition to his own writing, recording, and touring, he has collaborated with icons and contemporaries alike—Eric Clapton, B.B. King, Buddy Guy, and Herbie Hancock, as well as Kanye West, the Dixie Chicks, and Alicia Keys. In doing so, Mayer says his own interests have grown and his perspectives have expanded. Mayer also credits his collaboration with

Steve Jordan and Pino Palladino (collectively known as the John Mayer Trio) and the intimate-venue tour that produced the 2005 live album *Try!* with helping to recalibrate his musical priorities. "As a songwriter, the Trio helped me focus on being more raw," he says. "As a guitar player, it helped me get a lot out of my system. If it weren't for the Trio, *Continuum* would have been less accessible. It let me settle up with my needs as a

musician, and get to a point somewhere between the Trio record and *Room for Squares*—and that's a really good place to be."

While the Trio tour showcased Mayer's blazing fretwork, he says he learned lessons from those shows about restraint. "When I made my first record, there was no trust in space because it was all me; everything was just on those six strings," he says. "With Steve and Pino it was all about space, using a whole different palette. When your tone is good on the guitar, you need, like, four notes. The more concise and right you have it, the less you need around it." One listen to such spare, carefully crafted songs as "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" or "I Don't Trust Myself (With Loving You)" instantly reveals this new approach.

Mayer points to one song in particular as the turning point for *Continuum*. "I wrote 'Gravity' last summer, and it changed everything," he says. "You talk less when you trust that people understand you. 'Gravity' had to be sparse. And when I listened to it for the first time, holding back, it was a whole new game. That might be the most important song I ever wrote."

Armed with this outlook, Mayer knew Continuum would tackle larger ideas than those that defined his previous albums. "A big challenge was writing about big themes," he says. "I'm not a better writer in terms of sitting down in front of a pad, but I'm better in terms of receiving inspiration and converting it into something 'real' quicker. I'm better equipped to deal with those moments."

The hard-hitting "Belief" tackles an infinitely complex subject. Over a slinky, hypnotic guitar groove, he sings, "We're never gonna win the world, we're never gonna stop the war/We're never gonna beat this if belief is what we're fighting for," questioning the power and the limitations of faith and convictions. "It's an intellectual landmine—how do you write a song about what people believe without impugning their beliefs?" he asks. "I wanted

to get right next to people's beliefs and look at them without threatening them. It's tricky. You only get x number of syllables and you have to write something you can defend."

With "Waiting on the World to Change,"
Mayer shot for something even more ambitious—
something like an attempt to explain his
generation's attitudes about politics. "It's
meant to shed a little light on inactivity and
inaction," he says, "because I don't believe that
inaction is a lack of interest. I think inaction is
preservation—nobody wants to get involved in a
debate in which the rules and facts will change
so that they'll lose. So we end up with this other
option, which is, I guess we'll just have to wait
for things to get better.

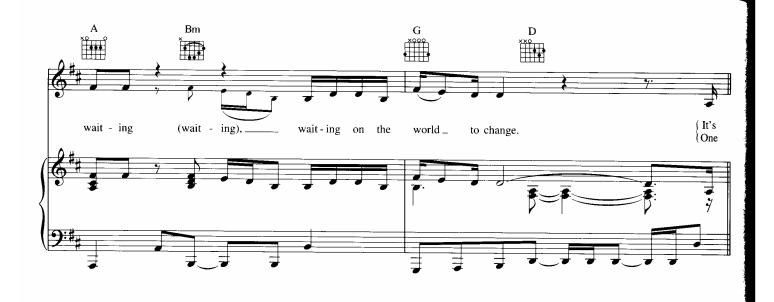
Continuum also includes the first cover Mayer has put on an album, his version of "Bold As Love" by the incomparable Jimi Hendrix. "To me, it's the quintessential Jimi Hendrix song," says Mayer. "The sensitivity, the imagery, the power. I also think the third record is the time when you challenge everybody. It's your throwdown. I like inviting the challenge of, Should this guy even touch Hendrix's music? To which I answer, Well, everybody should. Why not?"

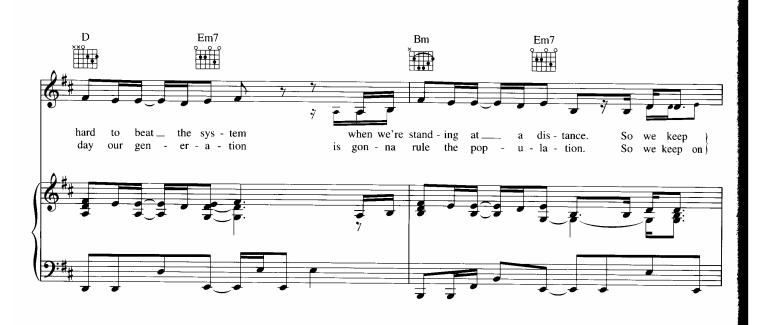
Ultimately, Continuum represents maturity, both musically and thematically, for John Mayer—a concept that he wasn't comfortable with until now. "A lot of these songs are about coming to terms with getting older," he says. "My generation was never told we were going to get older. We thought we were going to hear our names on Romper Room for the rest of our lives. For a long time, I was really upset about getting older, worried that things were just going to level out. But then I realized that everyone around me was getting older at the same time. We're all fighting it together, and we're always going to be those kids, the first really emotionally aware generation. When I realized that, I could relax about it a little bit. And I thought that maybe I can be the guy to sing about it."

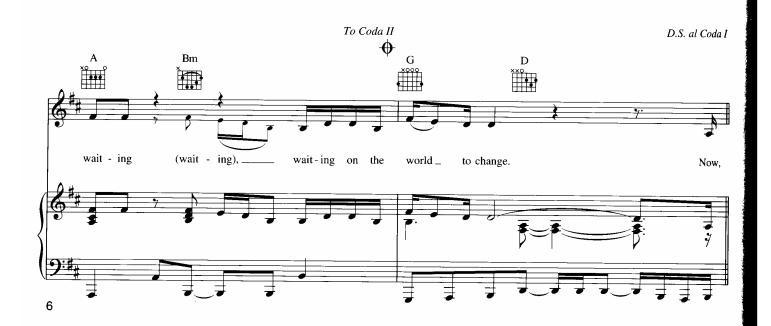
Waiting on the World to Change



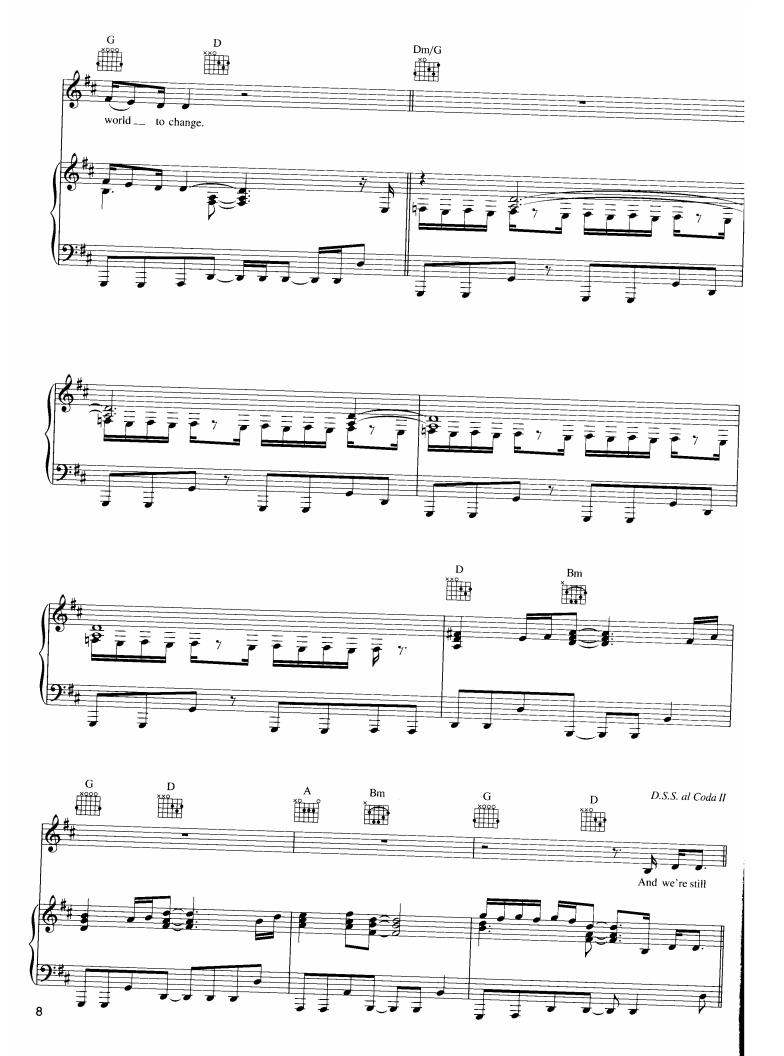






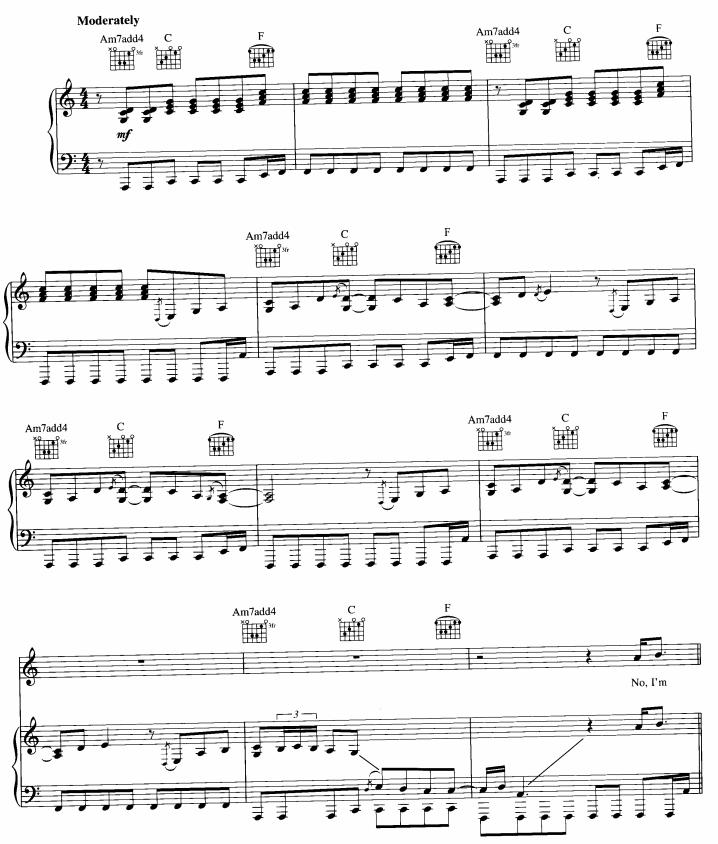


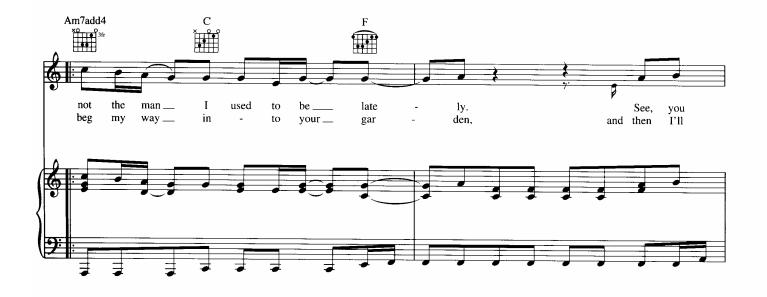




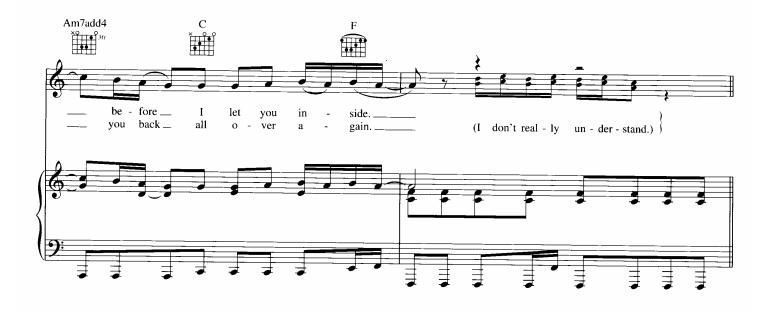


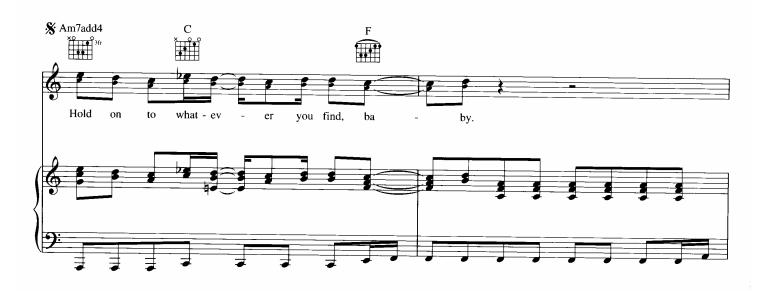
I Don't Trust Myself (With Loving You)

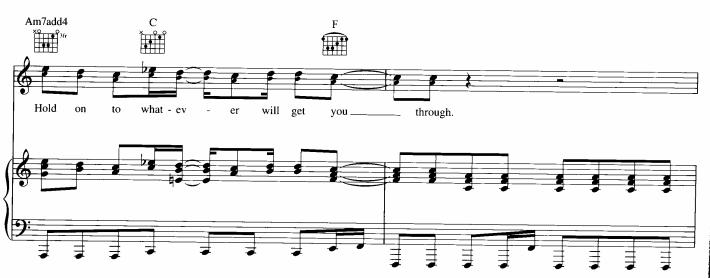




















Belief

















Gravity



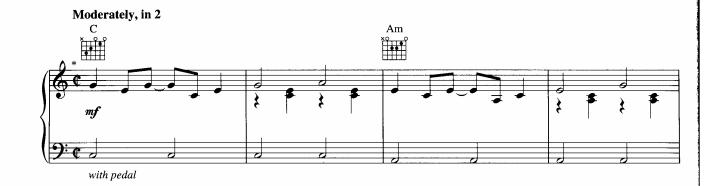


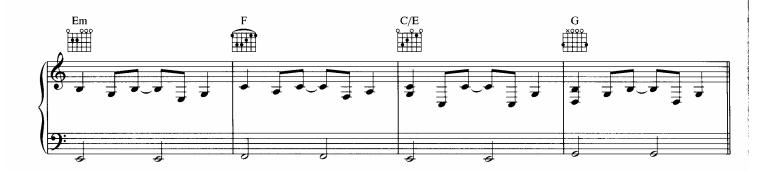


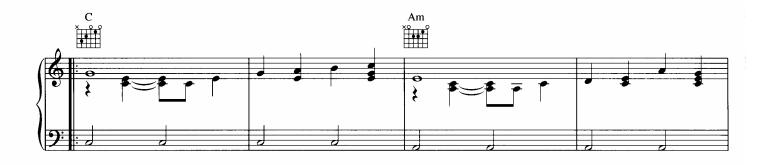


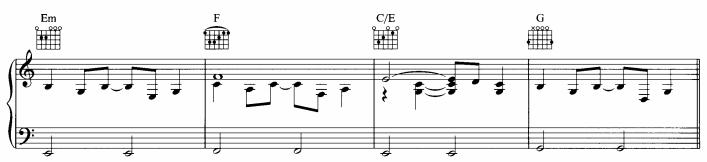


The Heart of Life









^{*}Recorded a half step higher.









Vultures

Words and Music by John Mayer, Pino Paladino and Steven Jordan















Stop This Train

Words and Music by John Mayer and Pino Palladino

















Slow Dancing in a Burning Room

Words and Music by John Mayer











Bold As Love

Words and Music by Jimi Hendrix

















Dreaming with a Broken Heart

Words and Music by John Mayer









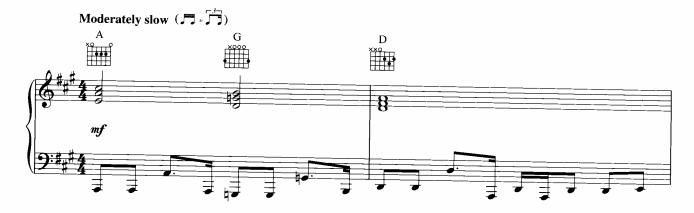


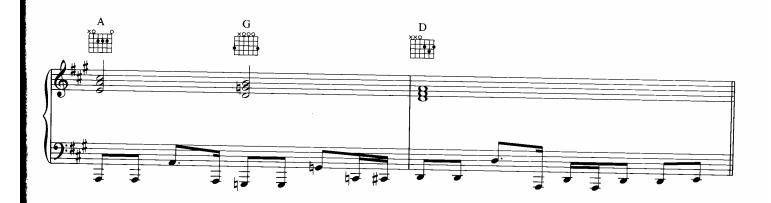


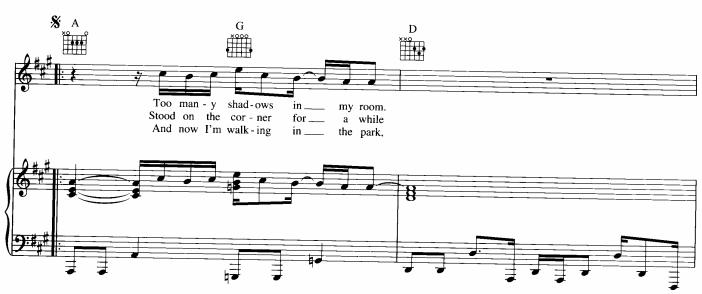


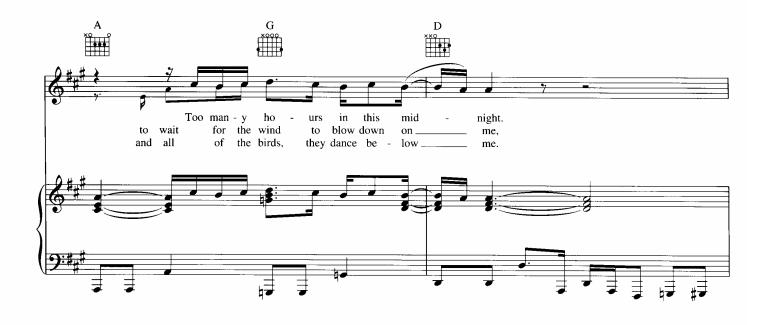
In Repair

Words and Music by John Mayer and Charlie Hunter







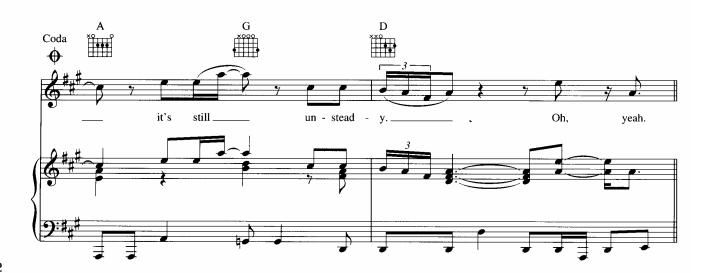














I'm Gonna Find Another You

Words and Music by John Mayer

